

# DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.  
LORENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

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SALT LAKE CITY, - APRIL 4, 1901.

## CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Seventy-first Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Friday, April 5, at 10 a. m.

LORENZO SNOW,  
GEORGE Q. CANNON,  
JOSEPH F. SMITH,  
First Presidency.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION CONFERENCE.

The semi-annual conference of the Deseret Sunday School Union will convene Sunday, April 7th, 1901, at 7 p. m., in the Tabernacle. It is desired that each Stake of Zion be represented at this meeting, and that Stake superintendents, officers and teachers attending the General Conference of the Church be present.

A cordial invitation is extended to the public.

GEORGE Q. CANNON,  
GEORGE REYNOLDS,  
General Superintendency.  
HORACE S. ENSIGN,  
General Secretary.

## "YES" OR "NO"?

The Board of Education has fixed the time for a special election, for the purpose of deciding whether that body shall borrow the sum of \$30,000, to pay for continuing the district schools in this city until the close of the term; that is, until the end of May. April 18, from 7 in the morning until 7 in the evening, is the time decided upon. Only one polling place in each precinct will be held.

The board might have reached this conclusion long ago, if the majority had been open to suggestions as to the requirements of the law. It was clearly pointed out that the only legal way to reach what was desired, was to submit the question to the votes of the taxpayers. But that was strongly opposed, and endeavors were made to get around the proposition and obtain increased taxing power.

It was argued then, but without much effect upon the board, that the increased tax, if made lawful, could not be rendered available for this school year's use. The plan to obtain permanent authority to levy a seven mill tax fell through. But the Legislature passed a bill for the increased tax for one year only, with an extra permanent building tax of a half mill annually, and this was signed by the Governor. But with this measure of success, the board found itself in the same position as before as to obtaining present available funds.

Again the law was cited as to the way to obtain authority to borrow the money. But the board thought the loan could be effected without an election, and succeeded in getting an authoritative legal opinion to support that view. Other lawyers, however, of learning and experience, construed the statute differently, and the board at length came to the point indicated by Mr. Georgegan at the first, and the special election has at last been called.

Now we desire to impress upon the taxpayers of this city, that notwithstanding the disputes that have arisen over this simple matter, the loan has to be made or the schools will have to be closed, and in either case the tax will cut no figure, except as an assurance that the money can be repaid. That seven mill tax may be levied under the recent law for one year, whether the money is borrowed or not. The election is not on the question of an increased tax, but this: "Shall the Board of Education be given power to borrow \$30,000, to be used in maintaining the city schools for the last half of April and the whole of the month of May?" The money is secured by the tax that can be levied under the new law.

Everybody who wants the schools to be continued for the full term will vote "Yes" on this proposition. We believe the majority of the taxpayers will decide in its favor. It will be a calamity to close the schools in the middle of this month. Unless the needed funds are borrowed they cannot be kept open longer. This will be a wrong, both upon the pupils whose advancement will be greatly hindered, and upon the teachers who, when engaged, expect to serve for the full regular school term.

The mismanagement of the past by which increased expenditures were made when a deficiency was in sight, though very much to be deplored, cuts no figure in the question to be decided by the election. The present school board is not in the fault. The situation is before us. The school funds are exhausted. The needed money must be borrowed or the schools must be closed. The prospect of sufficient for all necessary purposes next year is excellent.

The money is assured. The extra levy will provide all that will be needed. Indeed it is possible that there will be cash enough available, under the regular city tax and the new county tax, without requiring the extra one and a half mills over which there has been so much discussion.

The only question now before us is the borrowing of the money absolutely required to keep open the city schools until the end of May. Shall we let the board make the loan, or shall we shut the children out into the streets? We believe the vote should be overwhelmingly in favor of keeping the schools open, and giving our children the benefit of their advantages for the full term designated by law. Vote "Yes" at the special election on April 16, 1901.

## CONFERENCE BUSINESS.

Some of our country contemporaries are advising their neighbors who are coming to Conference, not to make purchases in this city, but to buy what they want at home. They declare that what is newest, cheapest and best can be had better in the country towns than at the capital of the State. Also they intimate that these visitors are considered as an "easy mark" by dealers "whose hooks are baited for the semi-annual crop of suckers."

It is quite proper for each paper to speak in favor of its own town. That is only to be expected. Its success depends chiefly upon local support. A newspaper is one of the great levers by which a city is raised to eminence and wealth. Every community should sustain its own public journal, and every public journal should sustain its own community. But there are limits to this rule as there are to others.

We would not like the people who flock to this city at Conference time, to obtain the notion that the merchants and business firms of Salt Lake are on the lookout for advantage of them. In the first place most of them are too shrewd to be taken in, that way. They know the quality of goods and their value as well, perhaps, as others. In the next place, established houses, such as advertise in the "News," for instance, and in other papers, have their regular methods and fixed prices, and are to be depended upon in their dealings. They want the "Conference trade," of course, but try to make it of mutual advantage to the buyer and the seller.

There are places in this city, no doubt, as in all other large towns, where the verdant visitor may be "taken in" and "sold." But they are not the regular stores that have established reputations. Such clap-net and "cheap John" auction shops are not peculiar to Salt Lake, and people who are not familiar with their tricks should avoid them wherever they are. If visitors will deal with well known firms in this city, they will not have occasion to regret their purchases.

Is there any advantage in buying goods in this city? Certainly. The very stores in the country that naturally want to keep their local trade, get most of their supplies here. One advantage is in the greater variety of goods which the large houses are able to keep. The fresher styles, the better qualities, the greater contrasts, that they offer, make it desirable for purchasers to compare and choose to their own taste. Then there are wares to be obtained here that cannot be had in many of the country towns, and buyers will find it to their interest to look at them, and may depend on the word of our permanent merchants for the quality and worth of what they offer.

We endorse the advice of our country contemporaries to Conference visitors, not to be enticed into buying "hobby" goods under the impression that they are getting bargains. But we will add such wares are not to be found in Salt Lake City alone. The same caution is necessary everywhere, and not here more than in other places that might be named. We will not say to our contemporaries "look at home," because that might be as suggestive as their own unpleasant reflections upon Salt Lake. But it is just as well at home, as abroad, to "look a little out."

## THE ISTHMIAN CANAL.

A contributor to the current number of the Forum discusses the Isthmian canal proposition, especially with reference to the financial possibilities, and arrives at the conclusion that the venture, as far as has been shown, would be an enormous loss to the investors. The writer is an officer of a transcontinental railroad, and his calculations may be influenced by that fact. Still, his arguments should not be ignored. To calculate the cost of an enterprise before launching out upon it, is only to carry out the dictates of common sense. His position is, that no figures have been presented to the public, to prove that the canal would pay operating expenses and interest on the money invested.

The writer in the Forum points out that the Suez canal in 1859 earned a gross revenue of \$17,624,555, on \$895,629 tons of freight. He thinks that one-fourth of this tonnage would be about the extent of the traffic on the Isthmian canal. The charges would have to be \$1 per registered ton, instead of \$1.50, which is the charge through the Suez canal, as otherwise many vessels would prefer the straits of Macellan. The operating expenses would be not less than \$2,000,000, and the interest would amount to \$5,000,000. The canal would therefore have to make \$7,000,000 a year, at the very best, and this, it is supposed, would be impossible with the railroad competition now existing.

The author does not believe that the traffic would amount to 2,426,752 tons, as estimated by a member of the canal commission. He argues that imports of tea and silk from China and Japan should not be included in the estimate, as very little of this would leave the present route from the Pacific coast and eastward by rail. The roads would cut the rates, but they would retain the traffic. The same is urged as to the freight going eastward. The railroads will not allow it to escape from them. Then much of the original goods is destined for interior points. Neither the California trade, nor that which goes to the region west of the

Alleghenies, or north of the Gulf States, would pass through the canal.

The conclusion is that about 2,000,000 tons would be a fair estimate of the annual canal traffic. This at \$1.00 a ton would yield something for operating expenses but absolutely nothing for interest on the \$200,000,000, which it is supposed the canal would cost. If the facts are as set forth and the conclusion sound, the canal does not recommend itself as an investment. It may yet pay to build it, but on other grounds than those commonly considered.

We believe, however, that similar objections were urged at one time against the Suez canal. However, the traffic there soon exceeded the most sanguine expectations. It is difficult, if not impossible, to calculate beforehand, with any degree of accuracy, what the actual traffic on such a highway of commerce will be. Ferdinand Lesseps had implicit faith in it as a financial undertaking. The Pacific countries are rapidly developing into world centers of commerce. The last few years of the past century have produced wonders in this direction, and the next fifty years will undoubtedly do more still. It may be perfectly true that the enterprise would be a bad investment for the first few years, but nations must look forward to the future and not plan merely for the immediate present. On this principle, there can be no doubt that the building of the Isthmian canal would be one of the great undertakings of this century, worthy of a nation with the broad views and the immense resources of the United States.

## APPLICATION FOR SAINTHOOD.

Mr. William E. Curtis, in the Chicago Record-Herald, says that two Americans are now under consideration for canonization as "saints" in the Roman church. One is Elizabeth Seton, the daughter of a famous New York physician. When she retired from the world, a young widow, she devoted her life to the organization and extension of what is known as the Black Order of Sisters of Charity, the most numerous and familiar Catholic sisterhood in the United States, who teach and nurse and conduct schools, hospitals, asylums and other philanthropic institutions. The application for her canonization was made by Very Rev. P. E. McElroy, president of Niagara University, who has laid before the congregation of rules at Rome evidence to show that Mother Seton was not only a person of eminent piety and virtue, that her life and labors contributed largely to the welfare and the happiness of the world, but that by her direct intercession several miracles were performed.

The other is Father Neumann, who was bishop in Philadelphia during the early part of the last century. He organized the Brotherhood of Redeemers in this country and the Sisters of St. Francis. In 1854 he was invited to Rome as the representative of the American church to be present at the definition of the dogma of the immaculate conception. He is said to have been a man of remarkable piety and a profound theologian, and also an eminent scientist and a linguist. He wrote several books on botany and other branches of natural history, could speak, read and write twelve different languages, and his memory was so extraordinary that he was able to settle any theological question in dispute by quoting passages from the fathers without reference to the books. He organized fifty new churches and established more than 100 schools. The Redeemptorist Brothers have applied for his canonization and have submitted evidence to show that he possessed in the highest degree the three theological graces: faith, hope and charity, and the four cardinal virtues, prudence, justice, courage and temperance.

In the Catholic church the proceedings by which anyone is exalted to the dignity of a "saint" are both long and expensive. In later years the Vatican has shown itself very adverse to such proceedings, and the ceremony is almost obsolete. When application for such honors is made, a man of learning and ability is selected to oppose the petition. He is known as advocatus diaboli—"the devil's attorney"—and his business is to search for all the adverse evidence he can find, and at the "trial" present this to the court. He has ten years to do it in. Some times the candidate has to pass through several different "trials," and if all these tests are satisfactorily passed, he becomes "venerable," and the name is inscribed among the honorable members of the church. It is necessary, however, that a hundred years should elapse between the death of a "saint" and the recording of his, or her, name on the calendar of "saints." What is known as "beatification" frequently precedes canonization. It gives to the candidate a slightly inferior status than canonization. A beatified person is recommended for worship, or veneration, while the veneration of a "saint" is rather obligatory.

To one familiar with the way in which the term "saint" is applied in the Scriptures and by the Church, by divine institution, all these ceremonies appear very strange. The "Saints of the Most High" are not a class to be selected according to human evidence. They are according to human covenants with their God to keep His commandments, and who are faithful to these covenants. When the Lord applies to them the name "saint," which, by the way, some people regard as presumption on the part of the Church. He does so because He views them as they will be in a more perfect state than the present. It is given with reference to potentiality rather than actuality. As yet His Saints may in many respects be frail and erring; but as long as they are under His care, they are steadily advancing toward perfection.

The wheel ordinance is in the hands of the mayor. Will he send it "spinning?"

War on the bucketshops has been begun. It has no connection with the full dinner pail campaign.

The robins and blue birds, those harbingers of spring, seem to have been a little bit "previous" this year.

"A Sister and Subscriber" is informed that the Deseret News does not answer questions from anonymous writers. If the lady will send name and address

the subject will be explained by letter, not in this paper.

By all means let Aguinaldo visit the United States. The sea voyage would do him good if nothing else did.

The State Land board has been buying school bonds. The board seems to be doing a regular land office business.

If Aguinaldo should visit America the government officials may be relied upon to see that his visiting cards do not bear the legend P. P. C.

One of the highly amusing things of the day is the way in which some American politicians who have visited Cuba berate the Cuban politicians for their scheming.

When the Philippine judicial system is fully established the writ of habeas corpus will run throughout the archipelago. This will do Aguinaldo no good. Uncle Sam already has his body.

In answer to inquiries we will say that information about the Big Horn country can be had from Apostle A. O. Woodruff, who is now in this city. He can be addressed at Box B.

China has formally notified Russia that she cannot sign the Manchurian agreement. This does not necessarily mean that Russia will not accomplish her designs in Manchuria.

"When McKinley goes to the Pacific coast it will be time to remark that 'westward the star of empire makes its way,'" says the New York World. "Course of empire," to be accurate.

Rev. John Jasper, the colored preacher of the "sun do move" fame, naturally was laid to rest this afternoon. He sprang into fame through his bold and persistent announcement of his belief in his erroneous solar theory. He at least had the courage of his conviction and in this world that is very much, almost as much as right thinking. What mankind needs is the perfect union of the two.

The German press, commenting on Emperor William's recent speeches, says that when his majesty travels he hears nothing but laudation and flattery, and that he does not know the true sentiments of the people. In his case at all different from that of any other ruler, royal or republican? When traveling from one part of the country to another they are naturally given courtesy and kindness, and it is proper they should be; it is much a matter of breeding. But a ruler who would take the trouble to go on a casual visit for the true sentiment of the people would receive himself more or less. This seems to be what Emperor William has done.

If any crimes are committed in the name of liberty many follies are perpetrated in the name of science. The other night a company of distinguished scientists met in the observatory of Columbia university for the purpose of trying to telephone to Mars. The result, thus far, of their séance is not known. Let any one of these gentlemen be presented with an unknown cipher code, such as commercial houses or the government uses, and he would be absolutely unable to make anything out of it. Let an ordinary human being address them in a language unknown to them and they would stand mute. Yet these same gentlemen talk about telephoning to Mars when it is not settled that that planet is inhabited. Good common sense is the best gift of heaven to man. But it is not given to all.

## CARNEGIE CRITICIZED.

New York Sun.

If a man offered to give you a costly carriage on the condition that you bought a two-thousand-dollar pair of horses, and that you gave him a commodious stable and a coachman and a groom, you might on reflection conclude that, after all, the offer was not so advantageous to you as it might have seemed at first sight. Mr. Carnegie offers to give New York \$5,000,000 to put up the buildings for sixty-five libraries, and to give the city permission to use the sites for them and pay for the libraries and their maintenance. The average cost of such sites is estimated by the contractor at \$20,000, or \$1,300,000 a year. Mr. Carnegie's offer is \$5,000,000 a year, and another estimate is \$600,000 a year, representing the annual interest on twenty millions of bonded indebtedness. It will be seen, therefore, that if Mr. Carnegie's offer is accepted, his \$5,000,000 will increase rather than diminish the now heavy financial burdens of the city.

## NEW GRAND THEATRE.

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40—CELEBRATED ARTISTS—40  
SPECIAL FEATURES.  
America's Minstrel Monarch,  
FRED RUSSELL,  
Professor Mason's Solo Band.  
GRAND NOONDAY PARADE.

## OUR SOLDIERS IN CHINA.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

Our troops in Pekin have received a high compliment in the petition by the Chinese of the Tartar city asking that they remain in charge of the section now under American control. In this section peace, prosperity, and justice have prevailed. The Chinese seem to like American military rule, for 2,000 Chinese asked that the Americans remain. This petition was sent to the American commander when it was learned that General Chaffee's command had been ordered to leave China. Perhaps the considerable legion guard which will remain may be able to perform police duty in the district which has been under American control.

## Memphis Scimitar.

The record which the American soldier has made in China is one upon which the American citizen should look with pride. Never before has there been such an opportunity for comparison with the troops of the first nations of the world standing shoulder to shoulder in a common cause and surrounded by similar conditions and opportunities. And never before has the American fighting man appeared to better advantage. The courage of no troops has been more fully demonstrated in the resistance of the Chinese was not of a character to put the hardness of any of the sublime test. Had such been the

## THE SOUTH AFRICAN STRUGGLE.

New York Times.

The official announcement by Mr. Chamberlain that the conference with General Buller and Lord Kitchener had ended in a rejection by the Boer leader of the British general's terms of peace, has evidently produced a profound sensation in England. The most irrational manifestations of this sensation have been made by those organs of the public opinion which profess shame that it should have been Great Britain which, as they express it, "sued for peace." That is a very wrong way of putting it. It was the dictate, not merely of magnanimity, but of humanity and decency, for it to hold out to them its imperial olive branch. That any Briton should take such an offer for a confession of weakness is only another proof how his nerves have been shaken by the unexpected obstinacy of the Boer resistance.

## ALBANY TIMES-UNION.

What hope there can be that has led to Botha's latest action is concealed from the world. It is hard to understand that he and De Wet can see any but one end of the conflict, and that against them. There is nothing to encourage them. They haven't anything to back them, and the powers will not help them, though they can. In continuing the fight they have nothing to gain and everything to lose, even what the English may have termed mildness in their peace offers. Better it would have been, it seems, to end the struggle right where it was than to prolong it. Hopefully with ruthless destruction of life and property and of freedom to thousands.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

In the International Monthly for April, Col. Larned of the military Academy writes upon "West Point." The Academy is now in its centennial year, stands today foremost among the military schools of the world, and has cost for the whole period twenty-two million dollars. Among the other essays the most notable is a description of Russian character. This paper is by J. Novikov, a Russian living in Odessa. Prof. Jevons writes upon the "History and Method of the Science of Religion," and the Italian composer, Pietro Mascagni presents "A Tribute to Verdi." The number shows a fine editorial appreciation of the tastes of the cultivated reader.—Burlington, Vt.

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